

THE REAL ISSUE OF LIFE IS THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

We lament the changing morality in our country, and the acceptance of what was unthinkable 50 years ago. But the root cause is a lack of commitment to the absolute authority of the Bible. As churches, we've lost our grip on morality because we've lost our grip on the Bible. Without the Bible it is "everyone doing what is right in his own eyes."

1.THE BIBLE IS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER ALL ISSUES OF LIFE

- Christians must read and study the Bibles they have, and accept it as their final authority – John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16,17. "Where Scripture speaks, God speaks." "To disobey the Bible is to disobey God." *'If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.'* – Augustine, A.D. 400.
- But does the Bible really address our modern moral issues? The Bible is sufficient in that it is enough for living a life pleasing to God. It is everything we need to know – Deuteronomy 29:29; Proverbs 30:5,6; Psalm 19:7-9. The Bible is clear in that it speaks understandably to the great moral issues of our day.

2.THE BIBLE IS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

- Our kids are being taught morality is simply a matter of personal choice and there is no absolute right and wrong. *"Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism, and every American public school is a school of humanism. What can the theistic Sunday schools, meeting for an hour once a week, teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?"* – C.F. Potter, Unitarian minister, 1885 – 1962, supporter of Evolution at the Scopes Trial in 1925.
- God created us male and female – Genesis 1:26 -28. Gender is God-given, not a social construct or something we change. Marriage of one man and one woman was God's design in the beginning - Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3-6. God's Word says all sexual activity outside of marriage is sin, both premarital and extramarital – 1 Corinthians 6:18-20;1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4. Even lust (including pornography) is sin – Matthew 5:27,28.
- Homosexual acts are sin. It always was and always will be sin – Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:24-28, 32. But God can forgive and wash sinners – 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. We must believe God can transform homosexuals. *"The church should always act with love and compassion toward homosexuals, yet never affirm homosexual conduct as morally right. The gospel of Jesus Christ offers the 'good news' of forgiveness of sins and real hope for a transformed life to homosexuals as well as to all sinners."* – ESV Study Bible Article on 'Homosexuality'.

3.THE BIBLE IS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OVER ABORTION

- Abortion rates are down, but there were still 862,320 abortions in the U.S. in 2017. Since Roe v. Wade in 1973 there have been approx. 60 million abortions (6 times as many as Jews killed in the Holocaust). The Pro-life movement has taken over some former abortion facilities – including Wichita, KS, and Grand Rapids, MI – but we also saw New York validate abortion through all 9 months in 2019, and were horrified to hear 2,246 preserved baby bodies were found in the garage of late abortionist Ulrich Klopfer.
- Anyone who picks up the Bible can read that life begins in the womb – Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:15,41-44. God condemned infanticide and the child sacrifice of the

Canaanites. The Church from the beginning was always pro-life and saved Roman babies left to die. It is only purposeful denial of the Bible for those who claim to be Christian to assert that God allows “pro-choice.”

- We are in a war against disinformation, propaganda, and twisting of truth. Beware the slogans of pro-abortionists: “women’s reproductive health”; a woman’s right to choose or control her own body; etc. They don’t even see their own inconsistency and hypocrisy: for example, Mike Bloomberg’s recent ad touted how he lowered infant mortality, then the very next sentence said “Mike has always championed women’s reproductive health.” There are still some who don’t believe a baby in the womb is a person, and there are some who don’t care! There is a lot of “fake” history today, for example the New York Times claiming Dec. 13, 2019 that in the 17th and 18th century abortion was legal under common law, and Rutgers University Press published a book claiming women and doctors in the 19th century did not consider the fetus a person. Even science and ultrasounds show the reality of life in the womb. Recently an 8.6 ounce fetus born prematurely lived and is Baby Sabie. *“Every human being, from conception through natural death, is to be respected as a person created in the image of God, whose life has special dignity by virtue of his or her relationship to the Creator.”* – ESV Study Bible. Never forget God forgives sinners through the blood of Jesus.

4.THE BIBLE IS OUR AUTHORITY OVER THE BEGINNING AND END OF LIFE

- God is sovereign over life from the womb to the tomb. We are to honor God-given life in every stage. One reason is that Jesus honored each stage of life, becoming a human in the womb of Mary, growing as a fetus, being born as a baby, growing up as a child, etc. Jesus also died and then conquered death. Jesus sets us the example by committing Himself to God in His death – Luke 23:46; John 19:30. We must remember this life is not all there is. There is a coming glorious resurrection. This gives us hope in the midst of pain and sorrow here – Romans 8:18,23-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Those trusting Jesus will receive a body like His – 1 John 3:2.
- Concerning euthanasia (mercy killing): *“It is important...to maintain a clear distinction between killing a person and letting someone die...There is nothing wrong with accepting natural mortality by removing a dying patient from artificial means that are only slowing down the natural death process.”* – ESV Study Bible on ‘The End of Life’. The commandment against murder applies to the terminally ill, elderly, and those who wish to die. We are to desire to glorify God in our suffering and pain. We are to seek to glorify God in our death, recognizing God is both sovereign and good – John 21:19.

Concluding Applications:

- Do you accept the Bible as the Final Authority over all of life? Hold onto the clarity, sufficiency, and authority of the Bible. Start with Creation as the Foundation of everything. If God is our Creator, He alone has the right to tell us what is right and best for us.
- Are you obeying the Bible? Accept what it says no matter what human opinions say.
- We are all sinners. Repent. Rejoice in forgiveness. Cry out to God for power to live for Christ.
- Don’t give up. Don’t despair (read the back of the Book!). Unashamedly, but lovingly, share Jesus with those around us. Focus on Christ. Only God can change hearts and He changes lives one at a time through faith in Jesus.